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it is hoped, will have the force of by-law; for it must be confessed that most books hitherto edited for the special purpose of giving reading matter in the modern languages are woefully wanting in the above qualities: blunders and misinterpretations are frequent; the notes are too often worked out in a slovenly way, inaccurate or irrelevant, never inviting reflection, never leading to original observation—let alone the total absence of literary interpretation, or commentary on the thoughts of the writer.

It is well known that books of any kind are primarily brought out by the publishers because it is thought there is money in them. This is as it should be; yet it seems that excellency, or, if this be unattainable, efforts to approach it in editing, will in the long run be more profitable than a short-lived interest based on local and personal considerations.

A. DE ROUGEMONT.

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#### BRIEF MENTION.

A second edition has appeared of GASTON PARIS' '*Littérature française au moyen âge*' (cf. MOD. LANG. NOTES iv, p. 62). The author has here turned to account all the rectifications coming from outside sources, while of his own work of revision on the book he says: "*je n'ai presque pas passé un jour sans y apporter quelque retouche, m'efforçant de le faire profiter de mes lectures ou de mes réflexions.*" The bibliographical notes, which form so valuable a feature of the manual, have been brought down to date, and a *Tableau chronologique* of French literature, from its beginning to the middle of the fourteenth century, has been appended. The importance and interest of this addition may be appreciated, when it is borne in mind that it is the first published attempt to group in chronological order the productions of the earliest period. The bulk of the work as it originally appeared has not been noticeably enlarged, but small accretions to numerous paragraphs constitute a genuine gain in completeness and accuracy.

Another work of considerable importance, in the Italian field, is the: '*Vocabolario etimologico italiano*' of FRANCESCO ZAM-

BALDI. (Città di Castello S. Lapi, 1889). This is by far the most complete treatment which the subject has yet had. The labors of DIEZ, CAIX, ASCOLI, D'OVIDIO, TEZA and the rest, have been made use of by the author and combined with detailed investigations of his own. The work fairly, if not entirely, represents the present status of this difficult and important subject. The volume is large, comprising 810 octavo pages (1440 columns, besides 90 pages of index) of particularly closely printed matter. The arrangement is admirable. Every word is treated in the group to which it belongs, which sometimes makes an article cover many pages. This however causes no difficulty, as the index (in which we have as yet discovered no omissions) indicates the page and subdivision of a page upon which any desired word is treated. This system has the advantage of showing at a glance all the derivatives or cognates of a given form. The book is exceedingly opportune and valuable; among other reasons because it brings together a vast amount of matter formerly scattered and not always controllable.

#### PERSONAL.

Mr. JOHN D. EPES has been called to the chair of English in Centre College (Danville, Ky.). Mr. EPES is a graduate of Randolph-Macon College (A. B. 1883); for three years after his graduation he taught English and Latin in the Wesleyan Female College (Virginia), and during the past two years he has pursued advanced courses in English, German and History at the Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. THOMAS MCCABE (cf. MOD. LANG. NOTES, vol. iv, p. 225) has been called, as Associate Professor of Romance Languages, to Byrn Mawr College, Pa.

Dr. JOHN E. MATZKE (cf. MOD. LANG. NOTES vol. iv, p. 226) has been called to the chair of Romance Languages in the University of Indiana (Bloomington).

Mr. HENRY R. LANG, who was inadvertently spoken of in the April number (col. 254) as connected with the Friends' School, Providence, R. I., is Instructor in the Swain Free School, New Bedford, Mass.